The CIA's Mission

Post 7.10.75

Brig. Gen. Tidwell's eloquent defense of the CIA (Letter, July 2) reminds me once again that a silk purse from a sow's ear cannot be made. General Tidwell describes the CIA as a group of intellectuals valiantly striving to perform "the mission of understanding the human world outside the U.S. and the uses that the human world makes of physical universe around us."

To my eyes the CIA has apparently pursued its mission in the best tradition of Karl Marx and with the supreme organizational tactics of V. I. Lenin by demonstrating over and over and over its true guiding principle is the end it seeks justifies the means it uses.

In the tradition of Darwin the CIA has apparently tried to support its therories with selected facts, ignoring whatever is contrary to the theories.

The CIA concept of intelligence has taught Americans to live in fear and to think from a premise of fear: what a dastardly way to celebrate our Bicentennial!

Sue Clegg.

Washington.